## DODGE COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING February 1, 2013

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chair, MaryAnn Miller, at 8:00 a.m.; a quorum was established with the following members present:

MaryAnn Miller James Layman Darrell Pollesch Ernest Borchardt Aaron David

Also Present: James Mielke, Dodge County Administrator; Lynn Hron, Clerk of Courts; Kurt Klomberg, District Attorney; Bob Barrington, District Attorney Managing Attorney; Patrick Schoebel, Medical Examiner; Todd Nehls, Dodge County Sheriff; Blaine Lauersdorf, Chief Deputy, Dodge County Sheriff's Dept; Lynn Steger, Register in Probate.

Miller certifies compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Approval of Agenda and Allow for Deviation: Motion made by Layman to approve Agenda and to allow for deviation; second by Pollesch. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Pollesch to approve Minutes of January 4, 2013; second by Borchardt. Motion carried.

Communications: None.

Committee Member Reports: MaryAnn Miller reports that she attended the Dodge County Executive Law Enforcement Association Dinner where the Sheriff's Posse received an award as did Ernie Borchardt's grandson. Miller also attended the Explorer Awards and has asked the Sheriff if a presentation by the Explorers could be given at a future Law Enforcement meeting.

As a Legislative Ambassador, Aaron David notes that an effort to get funding back for 9-1-1 centers is being made, however, the Legislators are in a holding pattern until the Governor releases his Budget.

Circuit Court/Judge's Report: Judge Storck is unable to attend today's meeting because he is at a Sixth District meeting; however, he has prepared a written report which Lynn Hron read. The report highlighted several issues. The progress of the sound and video installation is going well; there is some shuffling of courtrooms, but everyone's cooperation has been excellent. There have been no issues so far with the installation. The report recaps the 2012 budget indicating that the Courts will be turning back to the County approximately \$80,000 due to several factors such as (1) the expenses for indigent counselors is lower than anticipated mainly

because of new standards for eligibility and fewer criminal cases being charged; (2) revenues for attorney fee collections are up in part because of the collection process. Hron informs that the collection clerk goes up to Court and meets with each person who has an attorney appointed for them and sets a payment plan so payments can start right away as opposed to after the case is finished; (3) the Assistant Family Court Counselor went from full time to a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> position; and (4) the Family Court Commissioner went from a salaried position to an hourly position. The report also notes that two replacement bailiffs were hired and that files previously maintained by the Family Court Commissioner's office are now being shredded.

Child Support Report: Bernie Mueller is on vacation.

Clerk of Courts Report: Lynn Hron informs that Evelyn Mather from her office retired as of yesterday. She was a long-time employee of Dodge County. In addition, Bonnie Budde has taken the Chief Deputy County Clerk position. Therefore, the Clerk of Courts office is down two positions. After discussing this with Jim Mielke, it has been decided to fill one position and leave the second position unfilled for now. Hron explains that the Clerk of Courts office is not re-certifying to process passports. She indicated that the stricter guidelines by the government, the increasing costs, the decreasing revenue and now the fact that the passport clerk is leaving were all factors in the decision to eliminate issuing passports. Hron explains to the Committee how jurors are recruited and what happened at a recent jury trial where there were not enough jurors due to illnesses and jurors that were released after questioning. She notes that they contacted other jurors from the January pool of jurors and also called the Sheriff for assistance. Sheriff Nehls states that he does not want to take people off the street to serve on a jury and therefore contacted some of the Posse members. In the end, all of the Posse members were struck from the panel and, of course, the attorneys are able to question all potential jurors. Hron notes that in the future they will be monitoring the number of jurors more closely, but she has no control over people who call in sick.

**District Attorney Report:** Bob Barrington reports that they have a paralegal intern who is working 140 hours for them. He is a Sergeant at Fox Lake Correctional, is an Iraq War Veteran, and going to MATC for a paralegal degree. Barrington explains that their office has a good relationship with the educational facilities in the area and he thinks Dodge County has a good reputation with those schools. Barrington also notes that the new victim witness coordinator is doing a great job.

Medical Examiner Report: P.J. Schoebel reports that his deputy recently resigned due to health reasons, so they are looking to fill that position.

Sheriff's Department Report: Blaine Lauersdorf indicates that they are going to be requesting an increase in the number of jail transport positions from the current 20 to 25. He explains that through an audit with the Department of Revenue, it was determined that they went over the allowed 170 hours of straight time per person. Therefore, they are requesting 5 additional jail transport positions so that they can spread the time more evenly. This will have no fiscal impact on the Budget. Lauersdorf mentions that they met with an individual who offers a service for doing IGA Agreements. This person believes he can get more money for the County and more guaranteed beds. His fee is \$45,000 but he only gets that fee if a contract gets signed. They

have not yet decided if they will go with this person; it is still in the discussion phase. Sheriff Nehls states that the elected officials had a good meeting with HR and are satisfied with the results from the study. He states he is still concerned how the results will be utilized in the future. Jim Mielke distributes a memo as to the elected officials' placement in the study. Lynn Hron thanks the Committee for their support in getting the elected officials copies of their portion of the Carlson Dettman Study. Mielke believes the findings will aid the County Board when comparing Department Head wages. It is Mielke's opinion that the current salaries for Dodge County are low. Mielke also notes that the 2011 and 2012 salaries of all 72 of the counties' employees are being published and/or are already accessible via the internet. Sheriff Nehls notes that they are having a hard time filling positions; they had three prospective correctional officers turn down employment with the Sheriff's Department because the wages were too low.

Borchardt notes a recent newspaper headline that there is a District Attorney shortage. Kurt Klomberg notes that their office is actually 4 ADA's short.

Discussion is had by the Committee regarding recent statements made by Milwaukee County Sheriff, David Clark.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 1, 2013, at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Justice Facility.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Layman to adjourn meeting; second by David. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Aaron David, Secretary

Lynn M Steger Recording Secretary